

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 INT-05 STR-04

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R 242015Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7338

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1442

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, CI

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON GOC

REF: STATE 37591

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH REFTTEL,
AND FOLLOWS QUESTIONS IN PARA 7.

A) GOC'S PRIMARY MULTILATERAL OBJECTIVE IN 1976 IS TO PROTECT
ITSELF FROM WORLD-WIDE ANTI-CHILEAN CAMPAIGN SO PREVALENT IN
MULTILATERAL BODIES, PARTICULARLY IN UN SYSTEM. GOC WISHES
TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT MEMBERSHIPS AND INFLUENCE, AND WILL
TRY TO LIMIT OR HEAD OFF ACTIONS INTENDED TO ISOLATE OR
BRING SANCTIONS AGAINST IT BECAUSE OF ALLEGED ABUSES OF HUMAN
RIGHTS. GOC WILL ALSO BE INCLINED TO TAKE OFFENSIVE AGAINST
ITS MAJOR CRITICS--ESPECIALLY USSR, ITS ALLIES, AND CUBA--
WHEN IT SEES OPPORTUNITY AND WHEN SUCH ACTION WOULD NOT BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. IT WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS THE "DOUBLE
STANDARD" THEME. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, GOC IS INTERESTED IN
COPPER SUPPLY AND PRICES, IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF TRADE FOR
LDC'S, AND IMPROVEMENT IN MULTILATERAL FINANCING AVAILABLE TO
LDC'S OTHER THAN MSA'S.

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B) GOC IS MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF LA GROUP IN VARIOUS

BODIES, IS SUBJECT TO PRESSURES OF OTHER LA COUNTRIES, AND LOBBIES FOR ITSELF IN THAT GROUP. GOC HAS TRIED TO EXTENT NETWORK OF FRIENDS WHOM IT CAN COUNT ON TO HELP RESIST ATTACKS BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS; IT LOOKS PRINCIPALLY TO OTHER LA'S, VARIOUS CONSERVATIVE REGIMES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND CURRENTLY MIDDLE EAST TO AN EXTENT. IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS AIM, GOC OFTEN TENDS TO GO ALONG WITH AUTOMATIC MAJORITIES, AND IT TRIES TO AVOID TAKING MINORITY POSITIONS ON MATTERS NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTING ITS INTERESTS (E.G., GUAM). SINCE THE USG IS A PRINCIPAL PATRON, SINCE CHILE TRADITIONALLY HAS SHARED WORLD OUTLOOK SIMILAR TO OURS, AND SINCE CHILE'S PRESENT ENMIES OFTEN LEAD THE MAJORITIES, GOC OFTEN VOTES OUR WAY AND IS WILLING TO STICK ITS NECK OUT FOR MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US (E.G., CAMBODIA, KOREA). WHEN IT SLIPS, IT WILL RETRACT (ZIONISM). GOC IDENTIFIES WITH THIRD WORLD ON SOME ISSUES, BUT ITS POOR POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP TO PRINCIPAL THIRD WORLD LEADERS PRECLUDES BROAD PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN THIRD WORLD COUNCILS.

C) GOC FULLY INSTRUCTS ITS DELEGATIONS TO MAJOR MEETINGS, BUT INSTRUCTIONS ARE OFTEN GENERAL ENOUGH TO ALLOW LOCAL DISCRETION. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, GOC RETAINS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF MAJOR ISSUES WHILE MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS; BUT CHILEAN VOTE IN UNGA COMMITTEE ON ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION WAS EXAMPLE OF DISCRETION ALLOWED DEL ON MATTER NOT AT THE MOMENT CONSIDERED OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE IMPRESSION DELS' REPORTING ON MAJOR ISSUES IS SUFFICIENT TO MAKE INSTRUCTIONS FROM SANTIAGO TIMELY AND REALISTIC. FONMINISTRY TENDS TO BE WELL INFORMED ON SUBJECTS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO IT, AND OFTEN ALSO ON SUBJECTS OF MINOR INTEREST, BUT LACKS DEPTH.

D) CHILEAN PERMREPS, AMBASSADORS, AND DELEGATION HEADS ARE EITHER DIPLOMATS, CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS, OR MILITARY OFFICERS. ONLY THE LATTER HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT POSITION, IN THE SENSE THAT SOME OF THEM HAVE THEIR OWN LINES--PERSONAL OR INSTITUTIONAL--TO THEIR MILITARY COLLEAGUES IN CHILE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS SELDOM IMPORTANT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY LIMIT FONMINISTRY FLEXIBILITY.

E) MANY CHILEAN DIPLOMATS ARE SOPHISTICATED AND EXPERIENCED
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PERFORMERS WHO KNOW HOW THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM WORKS. THEY ARE NORMALLY RECEPTIVE TO US DEMARCHES--ALTHOUGH US VOTES AGAINST CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE CAUSING A COOLNESS. GOC EXPECTS THE USG TO CONSIDER ITS VIEWS AND POSITION ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO GOC. FONMINISTRY AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD ARE SELDOM STAFFED WELL ENOUGH TO COVER MULTILATERAL ISSUES AS WELL AS THEY WOULD LIKE. MINISTRY THEREFORE WELCOMES US INFORMATION AND VIEWS. THE DOOR IS WIDE OPEN FOR IN-DEPTH

BRIEFING; THE CHILEANS UNDERSTAND WHY WE OFFER IT AND WHAT
WE EXPECT FROM IT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA01442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-1017
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760219/aaaaapzi.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 37591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON GOC
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006